

Thursday, 26 February 2015

# Waihi Ward Reflections

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## Library to host national book launch

The first novel by Waihi's Lizzi Tremayne has its New Zealand launch at Waihi Library next Saturday, March 7. But though copies are just hitting our library shelves, *A Long Trail Rolling* is already a winner: earning the Romance Writers of New Zealand 2014 Pacific Hearts Award for the best unpublished full manuscript, and finalist honours in RWNZ's 2013 Great Beginnings competition. It's also a contender in the 2015 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults, and the open New Zealand Book Awards later in the year.

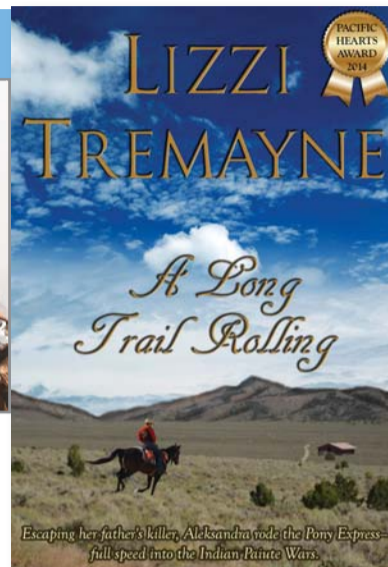
Lizzi describes the saga as "Western historical adventure fiction with romantic elements"; a crossover of teen and adult fiction.

Seventeen year old Aleksandra, trained in the Cossack arts from infancy by her father, finds herself alone and running to prevent her Pa's killer from obtaining a secret coveted by the Russian Czar. Disguised as a Pony Express rider in 1860's Utah Territory, she finds herself in even deeper trouble as she rides full speed into the middle of the Indian Paiute Wars. Her Californio boss Xavier has a strength to match her own, but can they overcome their differences before the ever-increasing odds overtake them?

Lizzi grew up on horseback, like her protagonist, in the Santa Cruz Mountain redwoods. After studying at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, she practiced in the California Pony Express and Gold Country for two years before emigrating to New Zealand. She "arrived on holiday in 1991 and stayed".

At home in Waihi, Lizzi is better known as Elizabeth (Liz) Thompson: an equine vet specialising in dentistry, college science teacher, the solo mother of two young men. Her passions include medieval re-enacting (fencing and horseback archery), carriage competition driving, and writing.

While her non-fiction work has been widely published in veterinary periodicals and special interest magazines, Lizzi began to write fiction just four years ago. It was soon fast-tracked when an injury required her to reduce her physically demanding equine veterinary work.



The self-published digital and print-on-demand editions of *A Long Trail Rolling* have been available in the United States since January, but the "real book" – self published under the Blue Mist Publishing imprint – is Kiwi printed. And Lizzi chose next week's launch venue because she's a strong "local" supporter and it doubles as an opportunity to promote the new Rosemont Road library.

Anyone is welcome to come and meet Lizzi at the 10am event, which will include a presentation about the book, its historical context, and the craft of writing, as well as excerpts read by the author. E-book and paperback copies of the novel – signed by Lizzi – will be available for sale.

Lizzi will also give a preview of the three upcoming sequels in *The Long Trails* series, in which the main characters shift from America to Waikato, New Zealand, during the Maori land invasions. The narrative of the whole series has a multicultural cast and strong historic detail, right down to period veterinary treatment.

Any questions will be encouraged, and there will be a draw for a signed copy of the book and posters.

## Beach meeting attracts over 60

Our annual public meeting at Whiritoa during Auckland Anniversary weekend is traditionally well attended, and this year it generated extra interest when held in conjunction with a tsunami 'open day' – drawing more than 60 Whiritoa residents and holiday home owners.

As usual the event was a chance for people to meet informally with their ward councillors; and be updated about work of public interest by Council's District Engineer Ken Thompson and representatives of community organisations. Reports were shared from the Whiritoa Community Library, Beachcare, Whiritoa Lifeguard Service, First Response, and the Rural Fire Force.

Just as importantly, there was opportunity for residents to give informal feedback to the Council, so we can take local views and suggestions on board in our planning during the year.

A need for public outdoor showers at the surf club was noted; and improvements were requested to mobility scooter and wheelchair-friendly routes throughout Whiritoa. Beachcare work was among other topics raised; and we're liaising with Waikato Regional Council on this.

Meeting chairman, Councillor Harry Shepherd, says the discussions were constructive, with a good cross-section of the community taking an interest in local issues and Civil Defence response planning.

## Tsunami advice for Whiritoa

How vulnerable is Whiritoa to a potential tsunami event? How should residents and holiday home owners prepare, and what's the response plan if a tsunami should hit?

That was the focus of a January 28 open day at Whiritoa which we co-hosted with the Waikato Regional Council, in conjunction with our annual Whiritoa public meeting.

The two councils have recently commissioned new scientific work on the impacts of a tsunami event on Whiritoa, as part of a larger study along the eastern Coromandel seaboard. The research shows that parts of Whiritoa are vulnerable to inundation from a large, near-source tsunami.

Specialists who have worked on the study project spoke at the open day, and the newly-released Whiritoa Community Response Plan was discussed.

The warning signal in our District for a Civil Defence emergency such as a tsunami is a continuous, one-pitch sounding of the fire siren, although this is not yet standard around the country. In the simplest scenario – at least a one-hour warning of a tsunami, assuming the roads haven't been closed by earthquake damage – people at Whiritoa would evacuate to high ground immediately inland, and from there make their way to Waihi or Whangamata.

Copies of the Whiritoa Community Response Plan are now in the local Library; or you can request one from the Council. If you live or holiday at Whiritoa, we encourage you to read it and be prepared – especially as resources such as cell phone service or electricity that are often taken for granted may not be available.

## Pipeline under construction

Construction is about 30% complete on the new pipeline for Waihi's supplementary water supply, which will take water from the Golden Valley Bridge to the end of Kent Crescent to connect with the existing pipeline from the Walmsley Dam.

We ask people to take care on roads through the eastern side of town while the 2.5km line is being laid – though there should be no issues, and the contractor is liaising directly with property owners whose land or driveways are crossed along the route.

The work needs to be carried out during periods of low flow in the Ohinemuri River. We expect the pipeline and pump station to be completed in mid-May.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### WATER RESTRICTIONS

**From 16 February 2015**


#### Notice to all residents of the Hauraki District

River levels have continued to fall, making it necessary to restrict the use of water, in accordance with Council's Water Supply Management Plan relating to its consents to take water from rivers and streams.

**For Waihi, Waikino, Mackaytown and Karangahake until further notice a ban is placed on the use of lawn and garden sprinklers. Only hand held hoses may be used until the situation improves.**

If you see water leaks or excessive usage or wastage of water in your area, please report this to Council.

Information regarding ways residents can conserve water can be found on the Hauraki District Council website at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz).

Click the SmartWaterUse logo. 

It may be necessary to increase the level of restriction if the dry weather period is extended. Your co-operation and efforts to conserve water now contribute to ensuring that water is available for essential and emergency needs.

For further inquiries please phone (07) 862 8609 or 0800 734 834 (from within the Hauraki District, no cell phones).

Ken Thompson  
District Engineer  
Hauraki District Council

## Fresh paint for town hall

Waihi Memorial Hall is getting a facelift – in the form of a complete exterior repaint.

No disruption to hall use is anticipated, but people should be aware that contractors and equipment will be on site over the next several weeks.

Graffiti-proof paint is being used, and heritage colours will be retained. Painting was last carried out in 2006.

## Smoothing the way at the lake

People walking around Gilmour Lake will need to veer off the 'cobblestoned' section of the path for about the next three weeks, while the cobbles are lifted and replaced with concrete. The work is needed because since the path was laid more than eight years ago, tree roots and ground conditions have caused many of the pavers to shift and become potential stumbling stones.

We regret any inconvenience to reserve users – but only short diversions over the grass will be necessary, and we're sure the resulting smooth path will be appreciated!

The affected 260m length of the walkway is at the back of the reserve, between the bridge and the lakeside stage.